

I oppose deregulation of the media and urge Chairman Powell to delay the vote on this issue so that the public may debate it. The consolidation that has already occurred is a detriment to free speech. This is too dangerous a path to go down!

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 has done far too much to quash diversity and local influence of the airwaves already, and rare is the media outlet that actually fulfills the mandate of serving the public interest. The airwaves are public property, yet they are controlled by a small number of mega-corporations that care only about profit and little about serving various populations in their communities or quality or diversity of programming. Radio in particular has had the potential sucked out of it as an artistic medium since 1996. To allow further consolidation would be to kill what little value it has left under current law. Media ownership rules need to be strengthened, not relaxed.